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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. More than ten years have already passed since the Latvian nation was robbed of its liberty. During those years our nation has poured out much of its blood and tears. The hearts of hundreds and thousands of the most ardent Latvian patriots have stopped beating on the various battlefields and, since the war, in the forests and swamps of our country. However, the strength of the Latvian nation, its irresistible longing for liberty, could not be broken even by these long dark years. Not for a moment do we lose hope for the hour of our rescue, the hope of greeting the day when again we shall be the masters of our own country and of our property.
2. Many times our hearts have ached when we thought about the Latvian refugees abroad. Why could they not intercede with those people who decide the destinies of the nations of the world, and why could they not try to do something for us? Thinking logically, we understood those obstacles which prevented it, but in our hearts, however, we reproached them. Now that is all over. We have learned, from the news received from abroad, how matters really stand and this has renewed the fighting spirit in our blood and this has given a new strength of our morale. All the same, even without such renewed moral uplift, we were determined to see it through, for we had armed ourselves with unbreakable patience and steadfastness, and we are under no delusions from any frivolous prophecies of a new war.
3. During the past five years we have learned and understood a great deal. After the capitulation of the Germans in 1945, most of the patriots did not want to submit as cowards to the violence of Communism, and they started a new fight as partisans, living in the forests, in the hope that a war between the free world and the Communist countries would soon start.

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25X1A

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-2-

25X1A

4. The groups of partisans were organized over the whole country. It is to be emphasized, however, that all the partisan activities so far had a chaotic and hasty character, for together with the patriots in the forests there were also criminals and adventurers. There was no single leadership for all of them, and there were also no common tactics and directions worked out for this new struggle.
5. Each group of partisans went its own way. Although several attempts were made to unite the separate groups closely together in one area, this was not successful, as they were not able to withstand the pressure of the regular army units of the enemy.
6. Facing the enormous difficulties of life in the forest, many partisans lost their fighting energy, particularly when the Communists got a free hand at the battle front and started a wide forest search operation in Latvia. The Communists also hid small army units secretly in the farmhouses of the forest areas. This caused not only a great loss of men, but it had an even bigger morale effect on the partisans. Because of this, in the first year of this struggle many of these partisan groups became scattered, partly destroyed, or captured. Also, in the following autumn, many of the partisans grew frightened of the difficulties of the coming winter and some credulous individuals voluntarily joined the Communist authorities, obeying the Communist call.
7. Such a situation persisted all through the year 1946. The number of the partisans during this period was considerably reduced, but during this time in some groups there started to grow a better discipline and security.
8. In 1947 a new era started in the history of the partisans. The struggle with the Communists became more organized. Individually organized groups of partisans arose with improved methods of fighting and with better tactics.
9. The strength of the partisan groups is from five to ten men in each group.
10. It is to be noted that these groups are not the only armed force in Latvia; there are also some unorganized groups. Then there are many individual persons living illegally who could be counted upon as a source of reinforcements for the organization.

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25X1A

-3-

11. As regards their economic basis, there are various methods for obtaining aid:
 - a. Each group of partisans has a supply base of its own, i.e., the legally living peasants. The names of the supporters are kept secret.
 - b. The partisans manage, in addition, to seize money and other articles from the Communist authorities and economic organizations.
 - c. Voluntary donations from the Latvian patriots.
12. In spite of all the difficulties which were caused by the Bolsheviks in 1949 deporting our richest farmers, who were our supporters, and by the collectivization of the farms, we have endeavoured to build up the organization of legally and illegally resident patriots and of persons who are opposed to the Communist regime. However, the organized groups of partisans remain the core of the organization.
13. We endeavor to keep this organization together for the purposes of the critical moment in the event of war.
14. As far as possible, we have armed our partisans with arms and ammunition and improved knowledge of tactics. To spare ammunition and to save life, they resort to the use of firearms only in cases when they are forced to seize food and in self-defense when attacked by the military or security forces of the enemy.
15. To avoid provocation by the enemy, new groups or persons may be enrolled into the organization only through very good personal contacts and acquaintance.
16. In addition, as far as is possible in the local circumstances, the partisans are carrying out patriotic propaganda among the peasants, strengthening the consciousness of Latvians against Communism.
17. As an historical moment should be noted the meeting on 15 September 1951 of all the partisan group commanders of all the organized groups. Our future prospects and the outlines of the world situation were discussed. The commanders returned to their posts afterwards with a still firmer resolve to continue this self-denying struggle until the freedom of Latvia is again attained.
18. In the event of war, we have decided to spread our activities to the following extent:
 - a. To establish armed partisan groups in the forests in every part of Latvia in order to enable the partisans to take control of any part of the country.
 - b. To blow up the enemy's military and important economic objectives, such as stores, bridges, railways, and other strategic points.
 - c. To collect all suitable information about the enemy and his fortifications or movements, which, if required, will be handed over to the commanders of the Western powers.
 - d. To give help or concealment to all Latvians whom the Communists might endanger.

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-4-

25X1A

19. To enable us to attain this program with as few casualties as possible, we must obtain help from outside, i.e.:
 - a. Money to procure food, clothing, and footwear for the partisans.
 - b. Arms and ammunition:
 - 1) Automatic guns and ammunition 9 m.m.
 - 2) German ammunition for light automatic guns.
 - 3) Pistols, 7.65 and 6.35 m.m., and ammunition for persons living legally.
 - 4) Hand grenades.
 - 5) Mines for mining strategic points.
 - c. Topographic maps and medicines, although this is a less acute problem.
20. The situation as regards ammunition is so bad that in some groups the automatic weapons are out of use because of lack of ammunition. The partisans are obliged to use ordinary rifles, and the German ammunition left over from the war has grown rusty and unserviceable.
21. We send our best and heartiest greetings to all Latvian refugees, who are scattered in many countries. We are awaiting their return as soon as it is possible. We are sure they are already longing to return, but they may count themselves lucky because they are spared from watching, powerless, the torture of their Fatherland.

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